

**MHDS COMMISSION**  
**April 15, 2021**  
**9:30 am to 12:30 pm**  
**Zoom – Approved May 20, 2021**

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**MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Betsy Akin	Richard Whitaker
Diane Brecht	Russell Wood
Teresa Daubitz	Lorrie Young
John Parmeter	Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott
Timothy Perkins	Rep. Dennis Bush
Maria Sorensen	

**MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Sen. Jeff Edler	Shari O'Bannon
Janee Harvey	Cory Turner

**OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Linn Adams	Kathy Johnson
Rob Aiken	Bill Kallestad
Theresa Armstrong	Kim Keleher
B. Baker	Todd Lange
Kris Bell	Dree LaToure
Emily Berry	Melissa Loehr
Teresa Bomhoff	Carrie Malone
Lynn Bopes	Robin McKee
Matthew Buley	LeAnn Moskowitz
Rachel Cecil	Bill Ocker
Christy Christenson	Katie Peck
Victoria Daniels	Libby Reekers
Becky Eskildsen	Jordan Rico
Meghan Freie	Flora Schmidt
Lynn Grobe	Lisa Schneider
Emma Hall	Susan Seehase
Tessa Heeren	Sandy Swanson
Liza Howard	Mary Swartz
Sandi Hurtado-Peters	Jess Van De Voot
Michael Jenkins	Stephanie Yeoman
Kathy Johnson	

**Materials Referenced:**

*March 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes*  
*Care Connections Management Plan 3.23.21*  
*Care Connections Management Plan Updates*  
*Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) 101 04.15.21 PPT*

## **Welcome and Introductions**

John Parmeter called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. and led introductions. Quorum was established with nine members present virtually. John asked Commission members to let the Commission know of any conflicts when voting.

## **Review and Vote on March 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Russell Wood made a motion to approve the March 18, 2021 meeting minutes. Tim Perkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Election of Commission Officers**

John Parmeter informed the Commission that the Nominations Committee recommended Russell Wood for Commission Chair and Lorrie Wood for Vice Chair. The Commission approved the recommendation unanimously.

## **Recognition of Outgoing Members**

Russell Wood recognized John Parmeter who was leaving the MHDS Commission after serving six years with four of those being the Commission Chair. Commission members thanked John for his commitment and work on the board.

## **MHDS Regional Policies and Procedures Amendment – Care Connections of Northern Iowa**

Rob Aiken, Community Consultant Specialist, Department of Human Services introduced Melissa Loehr, Regional CEO, Care Connections of Northern Iowa. Melissa reviewed updates to the Region's policies and procedures manual. Changes included updating the name throughout the document, updating the website, explanation of the name change in the Introduction and Vision, and the addition of a graphic regarding the name change. Russell Wood motioned to recommend approval of the changes and Diane Brecht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Eligibility for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver**

LeAnn Moskowitz, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise introduced herself and reviewed a PowerPoint on eligibility for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers, the role of IME and the role of Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) in determining eligibility.

There was discussion regarding the Children's Mental Health (CMH) waiver process, service gaps, and performance data collected by the MCOs using the IPES survey.

There was discussion regarding Consumer Choices Option (CCO), the need for cultural competency and the benefit for this option in rural communities.

There was discussion regarding the waitlist of the waivers and background on how the number of waiver slots that the state can approve is determined. The link for the 2021 Monthly Slot and Waiting List Summary was provided: [4.1.21\\_Monthly\\_Slot\\_and\\_Wait\\_list\\_Public\\_0.pdf \(iowa.gov\)](#). There was discussion regarding the different payment methodologies and rates for the different waivers.

## **MHDS Update**

Theresa Armstrong thanked John Parmeter for his service on the Commission, specifically his service as Commission Chair. Theresa noted that Julie Jetter, Community Consultant Specialist with DHS would be retiring at the end of June, and that the position was currently posted to be filled.

### Rules Update

DHS staff met with Commission members on the Rules Subcommittee regarding establishing rules for the Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs). The meeting was a high-level review of the rules process and the plan moving forward. The DHS team is working on drafting rules and plan to have a first draft for the Commission's Rules Subcommittee beginning of June. It was also noted that unlike other rules an Advisory Committee needed to be pulled together to review the rules for CMHCs. In a review of legislation from last session it was determined that changes were needed for Chapter 25 involving change in code regarding regional governance agreements. DHS plans to bring those rules to Commission in June.

There was discussion regarding the appointments/reappointments of board members to the MHDS Commission. I was noted that vacancies for Boards and Commissions were posted on the Iowa Talent Bank at: <https://talentbank.iowa.gov/>.

### Federal Funding

Theresa provided a correction to her update in March. The additional \$6.48M for the Community Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) was from the Consolidated Appropriations Act signed in December, not from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA.) The amount and set-asides remain the same. DHS has submitted a plan to SAMHSA for the remainder of the funds. DHS has had no word about the ARPA allocation to Iowa or specific direction on use of these dollars. The allocation nationally was \$1.5B to SAMHSA for the Community Mental Health Block Grant. SAMHSA has released a funding opportunity specifically for CMHCs from the Consolidated Appropriations Act to support and restore clinical services that were impacted by the COVID pandemic, and to address service needs for adults with Serious Mental Illness (SMI), children with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) and co-occurring substance use and mental illness. Applications are due May 21, 2021. SAMHSA intends to award between 165 and 185 two-year grants, with each grant year awarded \$500,000 to \$2.5M.

### COVID Recovery Iowa

Following a federal review and positive feedback from both FEMA and SAMHSA, DHS was asked to increase their request from a 90 day to a six-month extension of DHS's Disaster Behavioral Health Response Program. This would extend COVID Recovery Iowa services until December 31, 2021. At this time it is set to end June 30, 2021.

### MHDS Requests for Proposal (RFP)

The Peer and Family Peer Support and Recovery Peer Coach contract, following an RFP process, has been awarded to the University of Iowa, National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice. The RFP for the Projects for Assistance in the Transition of Homelessness (PATH) is pending. The current contract has seven providers. DHS hopes to award the contract by mid-May.

### Legislative Update

House Human Services Appropriations bill first version was released SSB1266. The Senate has passed the property tax bill SF587, which would move funding for mental health and disability services which is currently levied through county property tax, to the State by FY2023. The bill does add a Risk Pool Board.

There were conversations regarding how the Legislature will determine the amount of money needed for services, how it could change the role of county supervisors, the history of mental health funding, concerns regarding the need for stable funding for providers, impact on services, aging into Medicare

and loss of Medicaid services, services outside of Medicaid that Regions fund, Medicaid reimbursement rates and workforce.

### **Planning for Future Meetings**

John Parmeter asked if there were any items that members would like included on the agenda for future meetings. It was noted that the next meeting of the MHDS Commission on May 19<sup>th</sup> would be a joint meeting with the Mental Health Planning Council (MHPC), which will include updates from the MHDS Commission, MHPC, and the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council. There will also be an update from Iowa Department of Public Health regarding data from the Iowa Youth Survey and Youth Risk Behavior Survey. There will also be a regular May MHDS Commission meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup> with agenda items including an overview of Commission duties, the rule-making process and a presentation from the Attorney General's Office on open meetings, conflicts of interest and ethical considerations of Commission membership. Commission members requested an update on the IDPH & DHS realignment be added to the list of agenda topics for future meetings as well as a presentation from the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council.

### **Public Comment**

Bill Kallestad, Public Policy Manager, Iowa DD Council, provided a brief overview of the DD Council and a link to their five-year State Plan: <https://iowaddcouncil.org/State-Plan/>. Bill addressed the three main goals of the DD Council regarding advocacy, system change and capacity building, and requested feedback to the State Plan by the end of April. Bill noted that the DD Council have similar legislative priorities to the MHDS Commission, specifically adequate funding and addressing the workforce shortage.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy DePhillips.